

Oakmont PC Users Group

E-Mail Newsletter

February 1, 2010

Volume 4 Number 2

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Gary Caldwell

garycaldwl@sbcglobal.net

Helper Committee:

Granville DeMerritt

grandemerritt@sbcglobal.net

Help Volunteers: *If you have a problem, give one of these knowledgeable folks a call:*

Jack Feniger 538-8809

Gordon Ramsey 538-4981

Bob Rietow 537-0451

Phil Kenny 538-2075

We're on the Web!

<http://oakmontpc.com>

Webmaster:

Gary Pickering

rwp@sonic.net

President's Message

This year's Program Chairman, Gary Caldwell, is working hard to bring you interesting and timely programs at the General Meeting on the third Monday of the month. To assist in this endeavor, he plans to E-Mail the membership a questionnaire designed to obtain a better feel for what you, the members, would like to hear and learn.

When you receive the request for your opinion, I hope you will take a few moments to respond. It will not take much time and you'll be helping your club and yourself.

On another subject, the period of time allowed for annual membership renewal ends with the end of February. If your \$10 per family renewal fee has not been received by that time, your name will be dropped from the membership list. The Club does this so that we do not carry as members anyone who does not wish to continue as a member.

Please make checks payable to OPCUG. They may be turned in at the February General Meeting or mailed to our Treasurer, Gary Goodenough, 451 Oak Mesa Drive. You can also pay in cash to the General Meeting. If anyone cannot renew because of financial problems, please contact me. I'm sure other arrangements can be made.

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to our club:

Richard Gallagher

Sue Hattendorf

David Lopez

Mary Lord

Jean McWhorter

Delia and Leo Nistler

Earla and Kelly Snow

Betz Snow

We would encourage you to become participants and please feel free to contact any of the officers for help or assistance.

Cheers for Hospitality

We hope you noticed the refreshments at the last meeting. In addition to the typical cookies, there was more substantial fare. The feast was the work of Board Member Arlene O'Rourke. No one has volunteered for the job of Hospitality Chairman, so we plan to rotate the assignment, with each person taking the job for only one meeting. Arlene is preparing an instruction sheet and other help will be available. At each meeting we will make available a sign-up sheet. You can do it, we know you can!

February Question and Answer Session

Monday, February 8– West Recreation Center at 2:45 p.m.

If you have a computer question or problem you would like resolved at our Q & A Session, Bob Mandelstam is our Coordinator and M/C. If you would e-mail your questions or problems to Bob at bobmandel@psualum.com several days before the meeting he will work with our experts to determine a solution, which will be addressed at the meeting. We will continue to take questions from the floor but the e-mail requests will have priority.

Find an Answer!

We encourage our members to attend this session whether you have a question or not. There is always something to learn and sometimes even the most knowledgeable pick up something new. The Q & A session follows our board meeting, which is held at 1:45 p.m. and is open to any members who would like to attend.

February General Meeting

Monday, February 15 – West Recreation Center at 2 p.m.

The Club will present a program on using commercial "off the shelf" Income Tax preparation software. There will be a brief review of the various programs available and then a closer look at *Turbo Tax* and its "Interview" tool. There will also be some discussion on electronic filing. Even if you have someone prepare your taxes, it is worthwhile to use your computer as a cross check and the software requires the same input that a tax preparer requires. Depending on complexity some programs are free.

It's Tax Time

Have You Seen Our New Website?

OPCUG has a new website, <http://oakmontpc.com>. There you can see the latest announcements, check out current newsletters, contact members on the board, and get help with that computer with which you are having trouble. Click the Board button on the navigation bar and see a picture of your favorite board member. The Help button includes help with systems and games. Navigate to Past Programs and see programs that were given by our members and guests in the 2009 – 2010 season. All our previous newsletters are available on the website, too, by clicking on the Newsletters button. Also, look for a more interactive site in the future that will include a website search function, flash video, audio downloads and forms.

Enjoy the New Website

Class Assistants Needed

The Oakmont Computer Learning Center, OCLC, has had an enthusiastic response. Most of the classes are full and a third Basic PC class had to be added. Each class has room for 12 students at desktops and several more if they bring their own laptops. The students learn more if there are assistants who can work with individual student questions. Would you like to be an assistant? What's required? Just being available to help the students as they work at their computers, following an instructor demonstration. It is very easy for someone with basic familiarity with the class being taught. A list of the classes being taught are in the current *Oakmont News* OCLC column.

Help Needed!

Try This Out

GodMode in Windows 7 and Vista

An exciting tool, currently unpublicized by Microsoft, is available in Windows Vista – 32 bit and Windows 7 both 32 and 64bit versions. It should not be accessed in the 64 bit version of Windows Vista because its use makes the system unstable. No such problems occur with the other versions.

The tool is simple to activate and covers over 250 settings and tasks for your computer, broken into 45 categories. Examples are:

- Set up a microphone
- Start speech recognition
- Make a file type open in a specific program

To name just a few.

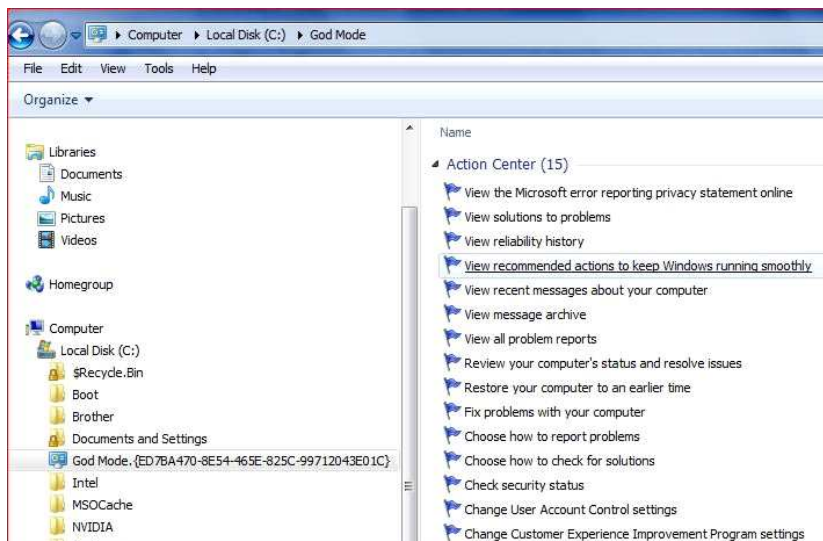
To activate *GodMode*, go to *Computer* and make a folder in the C Drive (or wherever other place you fancy). You do this by right clicking on the C drive and select *New/Folder*. Right click on the *New Folder* and select *Rename*. Then type in the new folder name exactly as shown.

GodMode.{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}

You can also use Copy and Paste to avoid errors. After typing (no spaces and note the period and curly brackets) press *Enter* and a small version of the Icon to the right will replace the Folder Icon and you know you have successfully activated the *GodMode* tool.



Double click on the folder or its name and the *GodMode* will appear. Explore the categories and try out a few that interest you. Then remember where you have this most powerful tool, waiting only for your command to help you with numerous tasks that will add to your computing efficiency and enjoyment. This is what it looks like:



To opt out of this E-Mail:

If you do not care to receive information from the club through the E-Mail Newsletter, you may opt to have us delete your name from our distribution list. You will need to let us know at:

krystine_at_oakmont@yahoo.com